



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# 'First Policy Makers' Forum'

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## Context:

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri JP Nadda inaugurates '**First Policy Makers' Forum' in New Delhi.**

**An international delegation of policymakers and drug regulators from 15 countries is participating** in the forum hosted by the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission** in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of External Affairs.

The forum aims to foster meaningful discussions on the recognition of the IP and the implementation of India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**, popularly known as the **Janaushadhi Scheme.**

"India has always been the **world leader in the production and supply of vaccines** contributing to approximately 60 percent of the global supply of vaccines."

And also the World Health Organization **procures 70 percent of its vaccine demand from India.**

## Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

- It is an autonomous Institution of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Govt. of India.
- It is created to set **standards of drugs** in the country.
- **Functions:**

Its basic function is to **update regularly the standards of drugs commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in this region.**

It publishes official documents for improving **Quality of Medicines** by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).

It further promotes rational **use of generic medicines by publishing National Formulary of India.**

It prescribes standards for identity, purity and strength of drugs essentially required from the health care perspective of human beings and animals.

It also **provides IP Reference Substances (IPRS)** which act as a fingerprint for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.

## What is Generic Drug?

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It is a medication that has exactly the same active ingredient as the brand-name drug and yields the same therapeutic effect and sold at affordable price.

**The Indian Pharmacopoeia** which is the *official book of standards for drug* included therein, in terms of the *Second Schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940* so as to specify the standards of identify, purity and strength of the drugs imported, manufactured for sale, stocked or exhibited for sale or distributed in India.

### **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):**

*Jan Aushadhi Scheme* was launched by the *Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008* across the country.

In *2015*, the *Jan Aushadhi Scheme* was revamped as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY).

In *2016*, it was again renamed as *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)*.

### **The Objectives of PMBJP**

*Reducing patients' out-of-pocket expenses* while increasing access to high-quality medications, supplies, and surgical equipment.

To *spread awareness about generic medications* among the general public and refute the myth that generic drugs are of lower quality or more ineffective because they are more affordable.

To *make sure that all women in India have easy access to menstruation health services*.

Create jobs by enlisting individual business owners in the launch of PMBJP Kendras

### **Implementing Agency:**

*Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)* is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

**PMBI was established in December, 2008 under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India.**